- **DRAFT Missoula City Council Committee of the Whole Minutes**

June 10, 2026
10:20 AM
Council Chambers (in person) or TEAMS (virtually)
Attend in person: City Council Chambers, 140 W Pine, Missoula MT

Members present: **Amber Sherrill, Mirtha Becerra, Bob Campbell, Betsy Craske, Gwen Jones, Kristen Jordan, Mike Nugent, Justin Ponton, Jennifer Savage**

Members absent: **Stacie Anderson, Sean McCoy, Eric Melson**

1. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

1.1 Roll Call

1.2 Approval of the Minutes

The minutes were approved as submitted.

1.2.1 Minutes from June 3, 2026

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public available for comment.

3. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

3.1 Zootown Arts Community Center (ZACC) Presentation

Informational presentation. Sarah Justice, Executive Director of the Zootown Arts Community Center (ZACC) will present background on the organization, community involvement, programs offered, and an update on the historic preservation efforts of the building they occupy (Studebaker Building).

Councilor Campbell introduces the informational presentation.

Sarah Justice, Executive Director, presents on the Zootown Arts Community Center and its importance to the community. It is a space for artists, community, family, and offers many programs. She shares that this is a place where people launch their careers. There are 300 working artists with 32 exhibitions a year featured. The building location is tied to the dawn of the automobile era and known as the Studebaker Building. The ZAAC purchased the building in 2018. The soft brick is starting to crack and crumble and has resulted in the installation of debris netting. The Montana Historic Preservation Grant was obtained to reinforce the art deco element. The missing paint is problematic and allowing moisture to penetrate brick. There will be many other restorations conducted with the grants and 10 jobs will likely be created in Missoula. The restorations will complement the Downtown SAM project. This is a big project for the ZAAC.

Sarah goes on to share that the ZAAC hosts a teen rock club which has turned into somewhat of a jazz program. There is a 55+ up club for the elder community. The ZAAC

also started a satellite program in Stevensville, Montana. ZACC Tracks is a traveling camp with visual arts and rock camp funded by the Dennis & Phyllis Washington Foundation. The ZACC celebrates Indigenous Heritage month and is a partner with the Jeanette Rankin Peace Center. Missoula Monster Project is a partnership with Missoula County Schools. It also offers, year-round Youth Art Classes and Camps. There are employees including 10 staff members and 18 art instructors.

Councilor Campbell inquires how do we get kids references for ZAAC programs?

Sarah Justice advises you can come in person or go to www.zootownarts.org and we offer scholarships.

Councilor Becerra is thankful for everything the ZAAC does in the community, she has seen this program grow and asks what is the role of the ZACC with the cultural plan being spearheaded by Arts Missoula and how does it help the artist community?

Sarah Justice advises they are trying to get ahead of the game with more seating to fit more people. This space is really unique with one of the strong assets being the showroom which gives places for artists to perform now that VFW is no longer in operation. She advises it is time to get back to drawing board and really support emerging artists.

Councilor Craske expresses her gratitude, and shares she has been there for birthday parties, and pottery lessons. She gives thanks for everything provide to community.

Councilor Sherrill asks how do you decide what communities you go into outside of Missoula and what is the cost of fixing the building.

Sarah Justice advises it is $222,000 just on the backside, and then they will need to restore some paintings. She spreads information word of mouth regarding the programs.

Councilor Nugent gives his thanks for the presentation.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourns at 11:00 AM.